

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/609,714

Examiner

Jonathan G. Sterrett

Applicant(s)

HACK ET AL.

Art Unit

3623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 6-25-07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 79-99.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

*Beth Van Doren*  
BETH VAN DOREN  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
AU 3623

***Allowance***

1. **Claims 79-99** are pending and allowed in the application. **Claims 1-78** have been cancelled and new **Claims 79-99** have been added. Please see the reasons for allowance below.

***Terminal Disclaimer***

2. The terminal disclaimer filed on 7-10-2007 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of the patent US 7,206,751 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

3. **Claims 79-99** are allowed.

***Reasons for Allowance***

4. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

None of the prior art of record, taken individually or in any combination, teach, inter alia, displaying a supply chain collaboration represented by at least two columns in a first displayed view, where the columns represent participants in a supply chain collaboration, and where polygons are positioned adjacent within the columns to represent business activities of the participants; and where a second view includes the

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columns where the polygons representing activities are not adjacent but rather connected by lines, where this connection represents their interaction; and where a third view is displayed that includes the same two columns and at least a third column, where this third column represents specific computer components used to implement the interactions between the participants and the utilization of these components by the participants; as recited in independent **Claims 79, 86 and 93**.

The novelty of the invention is in the combination of the limitations cited in independent **Claims 79, 86 and 93** and not in any specific individual claim limitation.

The prior art reference most closely resembling the applicants claimed invention is **Stephens**.

While **Stephens** discloses using the SCOR (Supply Chain Operations Reference) model to visually represent a supply chain, including illustrating interactions including material and information flow between supply chain participants, it lacks utilizing columns to represent business entities, where within the columns business interactions are represented by adjacent polygons, and utilizing a second and a third view, where the second view shows interacting entities that are no longer adjacent but rather connected by lines, and where the third view includes at least one additional column that represents computer components used by the participants to implement the

interactions, and where the at least one additional column represents computer components utilized by the participants , as recited in **Claims 79, 86 and 93**.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

JP11316780A by Cho discloses a workflow system having hierarchical business process definition.

US 5953707 by Huang discloses the management of an agile supply chain.

US 6233493 by Cherneff discloses a computer implemented product development planning method.

Marcel Mourits; Joseph J.M. Evers; "Distribution network design: an integrated planning support framework", 1996, Logistics Information Management v9n1 pp: 45-54, Dialog 02246763 86066472

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Harrington, Lisa H; "Software tools to revamp your supply chain", Nov 1998,  
Transportation & Distribution v39n11 pp: 59-70, Dialog 01735827 03-86817

Mourits, Marcel; Evers, Joseph J M; "Distribution network design", 1995,  
International Journal of Physical Distribution & Logistics Management v25n5 pp: 43-  
57, Dialog 01070336 97-19730.


6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the  
examiner should be directed to Jonathan G. Sterrett whose telephone number is 571-  
272-6881. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's  
supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on 571-272-6729.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the  
Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for  
published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.  
Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.  
For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should  
you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic  
Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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